



Summerhill Community Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter ~ October 2007

Sewing Inner-City Youth and Families



ASP Expands

The After School Program has started. We are serving 40 children this school year. We have almost doubled our role. After receiving special requests from teachers and parents for several of the students to attend our program, we are trusting God to provide all we need to have a successful school year.

We have a true challenge ahead as many of the kids are below grade level. In the past, we have seen the kids we have worked with dramatically improve their academics over the years, especially in reading and math; so we are very hopeful for the students we will work with this year.

We so appreciate the faithful volunteers who are with us again to help tutor and encourage the children in their academics. There are also several new volunteers who will be joining our effort of helping these kids.

If you would like to help in any way, please, send an e-mail to justinascm@juno.com. Our website has a volunteer needs list as well.

Summer Camp - 60+ Children!

A HUGE "Thanks!" goes out to ALL of our summer camp supporters. Because of you, we were able to serve 60 children and hire 8 teen job trainees.

Our teen workers were juniors and seniors from local high schools. We have particularly partnered with the Southside High School work force program to receive students that are serious about learning good job skills. As a part of our summer job training program, several of our teens attended life skill meetings, obtained their Georgia ID, and opened a checking account for the first time.

Our summer camp kids chose God's Farm as their a favorite field trip. We traveled each day for a week, to Temple, GA to attend God's Farm.

These inner city kids were amazed and excited as we stepped onto the



grounds of God's Farm. The kids came face to face with animals that they had only read about or seen on TV. They were able to hold and pet these animals and some took on the challenge of chasing goats and a baby pig. A few made friends with a llama.

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Dix Family Update

What a busy, but productive summer it has been - so busy that my communication fell off a good bit. Guilt set in because I did not communicate with the ones that are most dear to me as I would have liked to. Then the Lord brought the reality to my mind that I am a missionary in inner city Atlanta and His grace is sufficient.

Along with the every week running of summer camp, I had a house full,

as usual, this summer. One thing that I thank God for, although it has taken a good bit of my time, is the relationships that have grown with many of the kid's parents.

We have parents reaching out and literally crying out for a better life, and to be better parents to their children. God is allowing me to share His Word, some hard truths,

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mercy, and parenting skills to some parents who are very open to hearing. Our prayer is that that they will accept and receive these life-changing principles and in turn change their family lives. God is already moving and doing great things.

~ Ashley's Knee

Right after camp, my daughter, Ashley, tore her ACL and some cartilage playing soccer with the boy's team and had knee surgery. On the first day of school, they had to go into her knee again. She missed the first week of school. It was a busy 2 weeks, being with her at the hospital and getting everyone else ready for the school year. Ashley is doing fine and will do rehab for the next month and a half. It was hard to keep in touch or respond to e-mails.

Emanuel Jr. and Joel are still in college. Jeremy is in the 7th grade this year, and Myleondre and Dreleon are in 2nd and kindergarten. Justin is trying to get a job for a security company. Until he gets all of the details and starts work, he will be helping me at the After School Program.

~ New Houseguest

Courtney Simpson is our new houseguest for the school year. I've known him and his older brother Eric, since they were born. They lived next door to my family here in Summerhill for about 13 years until the grandmother, who basically raised them, passed away from cancer.

They lost the house and had to move into an apartment. Their mother took over the complete care of them, but sent them to stay with me each summer for the last 5 years, so that they could attend

summer camp and stay out of trouble.

Mom works a lot and relates a bit differently to the boys than grandmother did. There are some resentment issues and relational problems between mom and the boys.

The high school the boys had attended was rezoned over the summer. The boys would now have to go to a different school 30 minutes away. Courtney's brother, Eric is a senior so the school allowed him to stay, but Courtney, a junior, would have to go to this other school.

Mom did not want him to be so far away as Eric has a history of seizures and she works from 2:30pm to 12:00am. If something happened with Eric it would be hard to get to him quickly. Mom and Courtney asked if he could live with me for the school year and go to Southside with Ashley. After much thought, consideration, and talk with my family, we agreed.

Of course Courtney is thrilled about being in school with the kids he grew up with since elementary. He goes home on the weekends to be with mom and Eric. Please pray for this family.

~ House Expansion News

Anna and Justin have just received the survey on our house expansion. They have the plans drawn up from the architect and will now submit papers for the permit. I'm told it could a couple of months until the actual work begins.

I thank God for all that He is doing in our lives and in this ministry. I also thank Him for you and your ongoing support and prayers for my family and me.

Justina Dix

We Will Miss You



Anna Winter, who's been working with SCM for 3 years, lost her grandfather, John Hart, in August. He volunteered his time and came to Summerhill to perform magic shows for the after school program kids.

This Christian granddad made the kids laugh as he made ropes grow longer and shorter and made things seem to disappear and reappear. The kids tried their best to figure out his secrets, but could not. The kids loved him!

He passed away with his family at his side. Anna shared, "We are so sheltered from death. I feel honored to have been able to be there for my Grandad's last few hours and accept that death is part of life."

"My friend Minnie V and my Grandad left this life with no ill feelings, with no grudges, with no anger.... I want to live like these two lived... each day to the fullest. I want to love with all my heart. You can't take "stuff" with you. Pastor Weber also said, "I've never heard anyone on their death bed say that they wish they had done more work!" Amen to that."

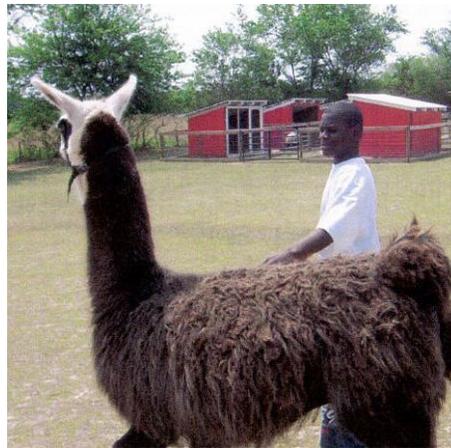
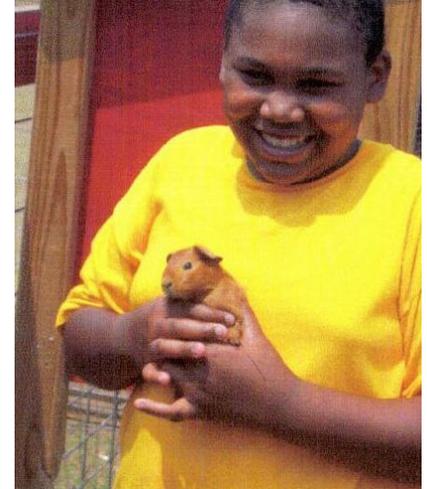
Let's focus on loving one another and serving our Lord however we are called to do that. I miss these two so much, but I rejoice that their hope was set in the Lord and that they were such examples of following Christ.

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Other activities they participated in were scavenger hunts, trampolines, archery, paint balls, and swimming.

One of the highlights of each day was when the Director, Larry Team, shared a wonderful Bible message. He had the kids' full attention as he talked about walking with God in the city. He encouraged the kids to make good decisions, as their choices will definitely affect their lives forever.

We ended the week with a trip to Lake Lanier. The kids rode a ferry, a speedboat, a Sea-doo sport boat and went water skiing. It would be a week long remembered. The kids are already begging to go to God's Farm and Lake Lanier again next year!



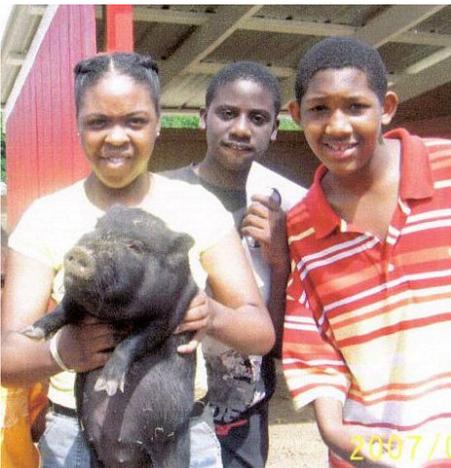
Miller. Khamirah shared her story of how she survived being homeless during her 4 years of high school with both parents being in jail.

"We rejoiced and celebrated the great works of God!"

She went through a lot during this time including being raped and mistreated. She trusted God for her healing and for her life. She managed to keep her academic focus and graduated with a 3.9 average. She has come to know the Lord in a very real way and is now in her 2nd year at Georgia State University.

Some of us already knew her story. Most were hearing it for the first time. We all cried and rejoiced with her. We rejoiced and celebrated the greats works of God!

After this program, some of the parents came forth to say that they want to "live a better life and start going to church". Some went to Redemption Fellowship with Justina and some went to local churches. Please pray for God's word to penetrate their hearts and change their lives!



Summer Camp Ending Program

Our ending program was a night to remember. Each class presented their own version of what they learned through skits, songs, dance and sign language. The entire camp also presented songs and dance as they worshiped the Lord. Justina's son, Justin surprised the crowd as he broke out into a solo. He was overwhelmed as he sang to the kids that "Yes they can!" They could do anything through Christ who strengthens them.

The program ended with the entire camp singing "Imagine Me" and a special testimony by Khamirah



“Don’t Beat Yourself Up” Flag Football

We went into this season thinking, “... not much we can do with this rookie 14-under team- so as long they have clean, safe fun, it would be good enough.” I’m glad people’s lives are not left up to us. Much more than just fun flag football, however, would happen with this rookie team.

This year we had a mix of boys ages 7 to 14 . Most had never played with a team before. We had a couple of quiet kids, honor students, kids with learning disabilities, behavior problems and a couple of kids with low self- esteem and motivation.



Coach Emanuel Dix, also known to the players as Coach D.D. had his hands full. Most came to practice eager to learn the game of football. Coach D.D. taught them the game, focusing mainly on having a positive mindset, making good choices, and good sportsmanship.

During the loss of their first game, a few of the players made several mistakes and each time they did, they would almost hit themselves. They acted as if the world would come to an end, so to speak, because of their mistake. Coach D.D. would reassure them and encourage them to keep going, but it was hard for them to forgive themselves. This started the season on a losing streak, but they would give it all they had until the end of the game.

Prayer was a part of each practice and every game. As they made mistakes on the field, you heard another player yell out, “Remember- don’t beat your self up!” The player that made the mistake, changed his contenance, gathered himself together, and went on to play the game.



During the fourth week, the referee asked one of our players to lead the prayer before the game. Montel volunteered and in his prayer, he said “...and God help us not to beat ourselves up...” Coach D. D. had instilled these words along with many more into the players. They latched on to them and began to support each other like never before. They played hard and strong.

It was a great surprise when they won their first game. It was as if they’d won the championship! This was the beginning of a winning streak. Well, they did end up at the championship, tied the first game, went into overtime and won.

During the final games again they tied the game, went into overtime and scored! The team won the Championship and shocked not only the league, but themselves as well. They hugged and cheered and shook the hands of the other team. They held great attitudes throughout the season and are looking forward to playing with each other during basketball season in January.



Christmas Bucks

The children at Summerhill Community’s ASP have been learning about loving and giving to others. The two greatest commandments have been the motto: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.” It is exciting that the children get to live out what they have been learning through ASP’s Christmas program. Each child has made a list of gifts they would like to give and receive.

As we approach the “wrapping party” on 12/20/07, the kids will be doing extra chores around the house, at school, and throughout the community in order to earn “Christmas bucks.” An adult will sign a form to show that the child has completed a task, and then those Christmas bucks will be exchanged for the gift they want to give to a loved one, and they will receive 2 for themselves. It is encouraging to see a group of young people excited about serving and giving to others during a season in which they are generally focused on just themselves.

We would love to have your help!

If you choose to sponsor a child, you will receive an card written by one of the children with three gift wishes. We ask that you purchase the gifts and turn them in to a SCM representative by Friday, 12/17/07. Please put the gifts in a bag with the child’s name on it. If you don’t have time to shop, feel free to send a donation to cover the cost of the gifts for a child. Remember that all donations are tax deductible.